

Institute of Museum and Library Services

21st Century Museum Professionals Grants

Document Type:	Grants Notice
Funding Opportunity Number:	21MP-FY08
Opportunity Category:	Discretionary
Current Closing Date for Applications:	Mar 15, 2008
Award Ceiling:	\$500,000
Award Floor:	\$15,000
CFDA Number:	45.307 -- 21st Century Museum Professionals
Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement:	Yes

Eligible Applicants

State governments
Private institutions of higher education
County governments
Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)
City or township governments
Public and State controlled institutions of higher education
Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education

Additional Information on Eligibility:

An applicant must 1. be either a unit of state or local government or a private nonprofit organization that has tax-exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code; 2. be located in one of the 50 states of the United States of America, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, or the Republic of Palau; and 3. qualify as one of the following three types of organizations: o a museum that, using a professional staff, (1) is organized on a permanent basis for essentially educational or aesthetic purposes; (2) owns or uses tangible objects, either animate or inanimate; (3) cares for these objects; and (4) exhibits these objects to the general public on a regular basis through facilities that it owns or operates. o An organization or association that engages in activities designed to advance the well-being of museums and the museum profession. o An institution of higher education, including public and nonprofit universities. Please note that a museum located within a parent organization that is a state or local government or multipurpose not-for-profit entity, such as a municipality, university, historical society, foundation, or cultural center, may apply on its own behalf if the museum: (1) is able to independently fulfill all the eligibility requirements listed above; (2) functions as a discrete unit within the parent organization; (3) has its own fully segregated and itemized operating budget; and (4) has the authority to make the application on its own. When any of the last three conditions cannot be met, a museum may apply through its parent

organization, and the parent organization may submit a single application for one or more of its museums.

Description

The purpose of the 21st Century Museum Professionals (21MP) program is to increase the capacity of museums to connect people to information and ideas by improving the knowledge and skills of museum staff in the full range of museum operations. Museums play a critical role in the education of the public in the United States by preserving the world's rich cultural heritage and helping to transmit it from one generation to the next. Museum professionals need high levels of knowledge and expertise as they help to create public value for the communities they serve. IMLS supports this purpose by providing grants that help museum professionals acquire, improve, and maintain their knowledge and skills. 21st Century Museum Professionals grants are intended to reach broad groups of museum professionals throughout a city, county, state, region, or the nation and increase their capacity to serve their audiences. These projects should reach multiple institutions and diverse audiences. "Museum professionals" include both paid and unpaid museum staff and both practicing and future professionals. Applications from individual museums should demonstrate how the proposed project will benefit multiple institutions and diverse audiences. Successful proposals will reflect an understanding of museum service needs in the communities to be served by the project and will explain why the proposed activity will be effective in meeting those needs. Funding will support projects involving core management skills such as planning, leadership, finance, program design, partnership, and evaluation. Project focus areas may also include, but not be limited to, collections care and management, interpretation, marketing and audience development, visitor services, governance, and other areas of museum operations. Proposals may also focus on projects that help museums attract and retain staff, and improve the capacity of museums to address the rapidly changing demographics in many communities. Examples of activities may include one or more of the following: • development and implementation of classes, seminars or workshops that deliver information on how to improve staff practices in the operation of museums; • resources and activities to support the development of museum leaders; • organizational support for the development of internship and fellowship programs; • support for the enhancement of pre-professional training programs; • collection, assessment or development of information that leads to better museum operations; • dissemination of information to museum professionals through publications, Web sites or other means; • activities that increase and strengthen the use of contemporary technology tools to deliver programs and services.

Link to Full Announcement

[URL for guidelines and instructions on IMLS Web site.](http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=true&oppld=16311)

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